



## Don't let this be your last issue!

So how can you make sure you stay on our mailing list?

- Take the survey online at <http://lmi.idaho.gov/survey>
- Let us know if you want to start getting your newsletter via e-mail (and help cut down on paper and mailing costs).



- BE SURE TO FILL IN YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS AND CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS!

(We're going electronic now!)



**OR**

- Fill out the short survey on the inside back page of this newsletter.
- Remove survey and mail it back to us **BY JULY 31** to:

Public Affairs—Newsletter Survey  
Idaho Commerce & Labor  
317 W. Main St.  
Boise, ID 83735

If we do not hear from you, we will assume you no longer want to receive *Idaho Employment*. It is always available online at <http://lmi.idaho.gov> under Publications.

If you have any questions, send us an e-mail at [lmi@cl.idaho.gov](mailto:lmi@cl.idaho.gov).  
THANKS!

Editors, Idaho Employment



# Southeastern Idaho News

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA & POWER COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

May, and in fact the entire spring and summer, are typically full of economic activity. As summer approaches, people begin looking for jobs, businesses and municipalities begin hiring additional workers for the busy summer season and schools begin preparing to close for their summer break. Employment opportunities abound with tourists flowing through the area frequenting hotels, restaurants, retail stores and recreational facilities, and local residents begin their spring and summer home improvement and landscaping projects. It also is the peak season for construction, which ripples through many other industries such as wholesale trade, transportation, finance and real estate. This May was no exception, and the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area showed more than a 2 percent increase from April in both its labor force and employment. Since the number of unemployed workers increased only fractionally, the unemployment rate remained steady at 3.6 percent – nearly a full percentage point lower than a year ago. The number of nonfarm payroll jobs increased by more than 1,000 in May to 40,230. Job gains occurred in all levels of government through seasonal hiring in firefighting, road construction and road and park maintenance, retailers took on help to maintain merchandise and serve customers, and the leisure and hospitality industry boosted payrolls to meet increased activity in hotels and restaurants and at summer recreation facilities.

The area economy continues to show improvement from one year ago. Fueled by robust construction activity, which is visible throughout all of southeastern Idaho, jobs were also created in the related industries of wholesale and retail trade, finance and business services.

Southeastern Idaho Table 1: Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Bannock and Power counties

	May 2006*	Apr 2006	May 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	45,830	44,870	41,640	2.1	10.1
Unemployment	1,650	1,640	1,770	0.6	-6.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	3.6	4.2		
Total Employment	44,180	43,230	39,870	2.2	10.8
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	45,950	45,570	41,730	0.8	10.1
Unemployment	1,420	1,660	1,550	-14.5	-8.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1	3.7	3.7		
Total Employment	44,530	43,910	41,730	1.4	6.7
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	40,230	39,180	38,400	2.7	4.8
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	5,890	5,510	5,700	6.9	3.3
Natural Resources & Mining	30	30	20	0.0	50.0
Construction	2,490	2,400	2,320	3.8	7.3
Manufacturing	3,370	3,440	3,360	-2.0	0.3
Food Manufacturing	970	1,010	960	-4.0	1.0
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	150	150	150	0.0	0.0
Machinery Manufacturing	100	100	80	0.0	25.0
Other Manufacturing	2,150	2,180	2,170	-1.4	-0.9
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	34,340	34,000	32,700	1.0	5.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,510	7,410	7,220	1.3	4.0
Wholesale Trade	1,390	1,390	1,300	0.0	6.9
Retail Trade	4,680	4,580	4,500	2.2	4.0
Utilities	50	50	50	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,390	1,390	1,370	0.0	1.5
Information	750	740	730	1.4	2.7
Financial Activities	2,130	2,140	2,070	-0.5	2.9
Professional & Business Services	5,080	5,080	4,640	0.0	9.5
Educational & Health Services	3,400	3,430	3,290	-0.9	3.3
Leisure & Hospitality	3,460	3,360	3,530	3.0	-2.0
Other Services	1,240	1,230	1,240	0.8	0.0
Government Education	5,990	6,220	5,540	-3.7	8.1
Government Administration	4,780	4,390	4,440	8.9	7.7

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

## AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

### Bannock County

- Essential Rhythm, an urban fashion store, opened in Pocatello. Owned by Mike and Michelle Seniff, it offers clothing, handbags and accessories from New York, Los Angeles, Miami and San Francisco. The couple have been conducting business on eBay for a number of years and opened their store in March.
- Sportsman's Warehouse will open in Pocatello. The company plans to build in the Pocatello Town Square development. It broke ground in June and expects to open before the end of the year.

The 50,000 square-foot store will employ between 70 and 80 people.

- Village Crafts in Chubbuck and Crafts & Frames in Pocatello have closed. Crafts & Frames will open in the former Village Crafts store in Chubbuck soon.
- Macy's has announced plans to close its store in the Pine Ridge Mall in Chubbuck. The store originally opened as The Bon when the mall opened in 1981 and employs about 60.
- A new Starbucks coffee shop opened inside Pocatello's Fred Meyer. The store recently remodeled to accommodate the new shop and a sushi bar. Together Starbucks and the sushi bar employ 12.
- Two banks broke ground on new facilities in the area. Bank of Idaho is building a second facility in the Tuscan Plaza, and D.L. Evans Bank is building a second location near the new Pocatello Town Square.
- Sweeping changes are occurring in Pocatello's Old Town. Two years ago, water and sewer lines were replaced and new curbs, sidewalks, pavers and trees were added on Main Street. Work continues on the Arthur Street part of the project. Several businesses have renovated buildings in the area.
  - » Zion's Bank is operating from an upgraded US Bank.
  - » Citizens Community Bank renovated the old post office and will use it for its corporate headquarters.
  - » Dell's Mountain Electric has undergone a complete renovation and reopened as Dell's Home Appliance and Mattress Center. The business has added a kitchen art center with several kitchen displays.
  - » The old Credit Bureau building will be renovated for the Greater Pocatello Chamber of Commerce and the Pocatello Visitors and Convention Bureau.
  - » The former Just Desserts is being upgraded and will become the location for a new fine-dining restaurant, The Dining Room, operated by the owner of the Bouillion Soup.
  - » The former Shanghai Café is being renovated to house The Porterhouse, a southern-style steakhouse.
  - » The Southeastern Idaho Farmers Market, which has been held in the Pocatello City Hall parking lot, moved to Old Town this year. The market is now held in the Union Pacific Railroad parking lot. The old Union Pacific Signal Shop, adjacent to the parking lot, will be renovated through

grants and donated labor to provide additional space for the market.

- Four Old Town businesses have closed: Arthur's Coffee Emporium, Lee Aikin Sports Shop, Michelle's City Lights restaurant and Rowan's Sandwich Shop in Station Square.

#### **Bear Lake County**

- Progress continues on the development of an industrial park in Montpelier. The city has been approved for a rural community block grant to help fund the project.

#### **Bingham County**

- Bingham Memorial Hospital, in partnership with the Idaho Kidney Institute, will open a dialysis center. The Idaho Kidney Institute is owned by Drs. Naeem and Fahim Rahim, and they will operate the dialysis center at the hospital. They have centers in both Pocatello and Idaho Falls. The center at Bingham Memorial will provide weekly dialysis services for 25 Blackfoot residents, who currently travel to neighboring cities for treatment.
- Taylor Real Estate celebrated the official opening of its new office building in Blackfoot. Owner Jed Taylor said the new building will help fulfill the business's mission of providing the highest level of service and professionalism to its clients.

#### **Caribou County**

- Monsanto is undergoing a major pollution control and production expansion at its facility in Soda Springs. The \$55 million project will add 13 jobs.

#### **Franklin County**

- Stokes Food Store in Preston has nearly completed its three-phase, \$2 million expansion.

---

Shelley Allen, Regional Economist  
430 N. 5th Ave., Pocatello, ID 83205  
(208) 236-6710, ext. 3713  
E-mail: shelley.allen@cl.idaho.gov

***Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey below. Don't forget the last question so you will keep receiving Idaho Employment!***

1. What newsletter sections are valuable to you? Please rate the value of each section by circling one from 1 to 5 (1- least valuable, 5= most valuable)

Labor force & nonfarm data	1	2	3	4	5
Regional news	1	2	3	4	5
FYI	1	2	3	4	5
State overview	1	2	3	4	5
Overall newsletter	1	2	3	4	5

2. How often should Idaho Employment be published? (please check one)

☐ Monthly

☐ Quarterly (includes monthly data)

3. What other economic indicators would you like to see in the newsletter?

---



---



---

4. Do you use the Labor Market Information Web site — [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

5. If yes, how often do you go to [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov)?

☐ Daily

☐ Weekly

☐ Monthly

☐ Once in awhile

6. Idaho Employment could be improved by adding the following data or making the following changes:

---



---



---

**You now can get the Idaho Employment newsletter online instead of the mail. Just supply your e-mail address and we'll do the rest!**

E-mail address:

**If you want to continue receiving the paper copy, please indicate that below and provide your current mailing information.**

**Yes, I'd like to continue receiving a paper copy. Send to:**

Name:

Address Line 1:

Address Line 2:

City, State, ZIP:



**THANK YOU!**